

At A Glance: S.C. 2010 Infant Mortality Statistics

Maternal and Child Health Bureau and
Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems

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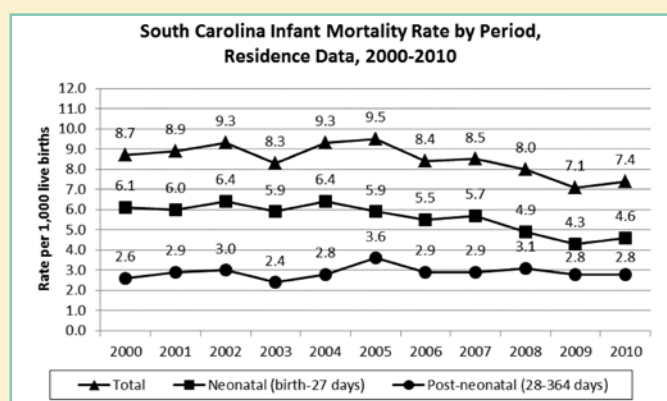
The infant mortality rate is an indicator of the overall health of mothers and infants in a population. Though the S.C. infant mortality rate remains higher than the latest preliminary U.S. infant mortality rate (6.14 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010), the S.C. infant mortality rate has decreased by 22.1% from 2005 (9.5 deaths per 1,000 live births) to 2010 (7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births). Despite this general decrease over the past several years, the S.C. infant mortality rate increased slightly from 2009 to 2010 going from 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births to 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births.

2010 Infant Mortality Key Facts

- The S.C. infant mortality rate increased to 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010, a 4.2% increase from the previous year's rate of 7.1.
- The overall increase in infant mortality is the result of a 7% increase in the neonatal mortality rate (infant death in the first 27 days), while the post-neonatal mortality rate (infant death from 28-364 days) remained at 2.8 post-neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births, the same rate as in 2009.
- The infant mortality rate increased from 2009 to 2010 among the black/other population group and among the white population group (black/other: 10.5 in 2009, 10.9 in 2010; white: 5.2 in 2009, 5.5 in 2010).
- While the infant mortality rate increased among black/other and white women, the racial disparity in infant mortality decreased slightly from 2009 to 2010. However, the infant mortality rate among black and other women is still nearly two times the rate among white women.
- An increase in deaths due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed from 2009 to 2010 was observed (66 deaths in 2009 compared to 74 in 2010), following a substantial decrease in these deaths from 2008 to 2009 (94 deaths in 2008 compared to 66 deaths in 2009).
- Although deaths due to SIDS and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed increased, the prevalence of infants being placed down to sleep on their backs increased from 67.8% in 2009 to 68.8% in 2010. Furthermore, the prevalence of infants that always sleep with someone else decreased from 15.2% in 2009 to 14.3% in 2010.

Leading Causes of Infant Death in 2010

- The three leading causes of infant deaths (birth defects, disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, and SIDS) were responsible for 43.3% of all infant deaths in S.C.
- There was a notable reduction (32.1%) in the number of deaths classified under "fetus and newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy."



- Though there was a slight decrease in the overall number of infant deaths caused by "accidents," there was an increase in deaths related to accidental suffocations and strangulation in bed (22 in 2009 to 25 in 2010).
- The leading cause of death for the black/other population in 2010 was disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, followed by birth defects and SIDS. Meanwhile, the leading cause of death for the white population was birth defects, followed by SIDS and disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight.

Characteristics Associated with Infant Death in 2010

- The likelihood of having an infant that died was higher among women that were unmarried and women that did not begin prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) were more likely to result in infant death than singleton births.
- Hispanic mothers were less likely to have an infant death than non-Hispanic mothers.
- Up to 63.1% of all infant deaths in 2010 are potentially attributable to low infant birth weight (less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces).



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Data Source:

1. Division of Biostatistics
2. Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
S.C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control.

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